# ANCIENT SKIES

*"Come Search With Us!"*

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## COSMIC CIVILIZERS

BY ANDREW TOMAS*

Eventually our spaceships will reach the outer planets of the solar system, build bases on them, and then venture further into interstellar space in photon rockets.

On some unknown planet warmed and lighted by a white or yellow sun our astronauts may discover primitive life. Should primates exist on that planet the astronauts would separate them, concentrating their attention on the most intelligent. How to use a tool, make a fire, heal wounds, to count - these would be some of the first lessons the earthmen would give. The starships would come again and again and the men from Earth would then impart more advanced instruction, such as how to identify the stars or to convert ideas into signs and sounds. During one of these missions an astronaut might even be ordered to couple with an ugly, hairy animal-woman, so that the evolution of that primitive race may be accelerated by artificial methods, and the species thus improved.

These half-men would then venerate the astronauts as gods, which would be a natural reaction in such circumstances. Then, after completion of their assignment, the explorers would depart for their home planet, leaving the planetary menagerie to work out its own destiny in the garden of evolution. During decades, centuries and thousands of years, the inhabitants of the distant planet would repeat stories of visitations of superior messengers from the stars who had bestowed upon them the blessings of culture.

Since this program would have been carried out over the entire planet, similar legends would circulate in different parts of that world. All these verbal traditions would then be committed to writing and thus become a part of the cultural heritage. After long ages, the wise men of this reasonably advanced civilization would begin to express their scepticism towards all those myths and holy scriptures depicting messengers from the stars. The distinguished descendants of those clever apes would then maintain that they, of course, could fly in the sky and perform half the feats that the "gods" or "angels" were reputed to have performed, but that the legends themselves were only flights of fancy.

There is evidence to suggest that all this actually took place on Earth in a prehistoric era. The history of those space missions from Planet X would therefore be written in mythology, folklore and religion. Here we must ask a question.Can myth really be taken for a fossil of history? Only to a certain extent. With the passage of time verbal tradition becomes more fanciful. And there are many myths which have no connection with history,such as those that are interpretations of the origin of the world. The ancient Greeks used to say that myth was a truth stated in a metaphor, and in spite of being the authors of a voluminous mythology, they always remained the most rational of peoples.

"Myth is history in disguise," said Euphemerus in the fourth century before our era. Aristotle wrote: "Our forefathers in the most remote ages have handed down to their posterity a tradition in the form of a myth." In the nineteenth century no European scholars believed that there had ever been a city named Troy as described in Greek legends. When Heinrich Schliemann discovered the ruins of many Troys, one built over another, the historians were forced to admit their error. In the light of this example, it is fairly obvious that behind a myth there is often an actual historical event. History, mythology and the sacred scriptures of most peoples contain a wealth of material portraying the descent of gods to Earth and their life among men.

The Dogon of Mali in Africa worship a pyramid with steps leading to a square platform on top where, according to one of their legends, the sky gods landed on each of their visits, long, long ago. One of these beings showed them how to divide up their land and taught them how to cultivate it. Dogon priests speak of an epoch when the gods came regularly "to plan on Earth." Their ancient tradition speaks of the "dark brother" of the star Sirius. This is most extraordinary as Sirius does have a companion star which, however, is visible only through the most powerful telescopes.It is also a mystery why certain cave carvings in the Mediterranean basin depict the Pleiades as ten stars, whereas only six or seven are visible on a clear night, with excellent vision. It takes a telescope, however, to see ten or more stars in that constellation.

The astronomer-priests of Babylon had stepped pyramids, the pinnacles of which were reserved for the sky-beings coming down to Earth.The pyramids of Chichen Itza in Mexico and Tikal in Guatemala are very much like those of the Dogon and of Babylon. Again, their purpose was similar - to provide specific sites upon which the celestial visitors could land. Considering the isolation of the Old World from the

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*This article is based upon a chapter in the author's book On the Shores of Endless Worlds,published in hardcover in 1974 by G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York. Mr. Tomas is an author with over 60 volumes to his credit, published in 17 countries. His book We Are Not the First, is one of the classics in the ancient astronaut field. His latest book is Mirage of the Ages.

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Americas for thousands of years, it is a wonder that such identical structures and legends should have originated independently.

The Nuba people of Sudan in Africa hand down a myth according to which in the beginning the sky was so near than man could actually touch it. They speak of a rope that was suspended from the sky by which certain people could ascend to and descend from heaven. According to Geoffrey Parrined, the Shilluk of the Sudan believe "that in the olden days men used to be able to get up to the moon by a road, but they became too heavy and could no longer use it." It seems that modern man has recently reopened this highway to the moon.

The priests of ancient Egypt alluded to the First Time when gods actually lived on Earth during the Golden Age. The Egyptians erected obelisks dedicated to the Sun-god Re which had gilded tops called Benben. Were these obelisks inspired by space rockets in which the sky gods arrived?

The Book of the Dead, the 3500-year-old Egyptian bible, contains strange words. One passage speaks of "those who with their knowledge reach the vault of the sky." Another chapter even mentions "those who live among the stars." Thoth was the great culture-bearer of Egypt who gave the people of the Nile the first elements of science, mathematics, literature, history and medicine. After completing his task he returned to the starry heavens.

On the other side of the Atlantic the sun cult was as prevalent as it was in Egypt. According to Garcilaso de la Vega, the Peruvian Inca historian, God the Sun sent one of his sons and one of his daughters - Manco Capac and Mama Ocllo - to transform animal-men into rational beings. These heavenly messengers taught early mankind how to build cities, raise food plants and "live as men in reason and comity." The city of Cuzco, Peru, with the most monumental stonework in the world, still stands as a mute witness to the origin of this legend. We should be grateful to both the pre-Incas and the Incas for having been the first to cultivate half the vegetables we eat today.

Quetzalcoatl, the Plumed Serpent, disembarked from a winged ship and brought to Mexico the benefits of civilization. He imparted to the Indians the knowledge of astronomy and mathematics, and they devised with him the most precise calendar in existence, even today. He must have also taught them the principles of architecture as the world's most massive pyramid, so far as its base is concerned, was constructed by them. Due to lack of co-operation the messenger departed to the sky in a spectacular exhibition of fiery flashes. In the Palacio National in Mexico City one may still see murals which depict Quetzalcoatl flying in a serpent-like craft. Mexico has not forgotten her debt to Quetzalcoatl.

The memory of an era of celestial guardians is deeply ingrained in the consciousness of India. Even today the Hindus point to another half-forgotten Space Age when the gods unexpectedly arrived from the stars. That is why it is the sacred duty of every Indian to treat a guest as if he or she were a messenger from heaven. In fact, this custom is typical of most of Asia for the same reason. Hospitality is also highly recommended by the New Testament:"...there are some who by so doing have entertained angels without knowing it."(Heb.13:2). Ovid relates how Jupiter and Mercury took on the appearance of poor wayfarers and paid a visit to Baucis and Philemon of Phrygia. Just before their departure, they declared: "you have been hosts to gods."

The bible represents angels as having existed before man. They are called the upper ones or the inhabitants of heaven. If angels were denizens of other worlds older than ours, then the biblical statement might be perfectly correct. In the Old Testament it is stated that the giant sons of God coupled with the daughters of men who produced mighty men. These activities may have been nothing other than genetic experiments. Lot entertained two angels in his house in Sodom with matzoth and they did eat. (Gen.19:3). It is just this precise detail that discounts the supposition that those particular angels were not physical beings.

The Hebrew Kabala refers to Metatron, the leader of the yorde merkabah, celestial voyagers, who sometimes descended to Earth in their chariots, and who, according to the Kabala, knew all the secrets of the starry heaven.Further, Rabbi Simon Ben Jachai stated in the Book of Zohar that the Masters of Kabala had always cherished a belief in the unpredictable arrivals of superior beings from the sky.

Since the Kabala consists largely of Jewish gnosticism, it is therefore interesting to read The Vision of Aridaeus by Plutarch of Chaeroneia, also a gnostic, where he describes a swift voyage in space, travelling as smoothly "as a ship in calm weather."

"Aridaeus saw naught save the stars, they were, however, of a stupendous size and at enormous distances from one another, and poured forth a marvellous radiance of colour and sound." It would not be wise to reject this 2000-year-old record in view of the scientifically correct information it contains regarding the size of the stars, their distances apart and the emissions on different frequencies.

Interesting tales are included in the Book of Enoch regarding this two-way traffic in space. Extracts from this old book, written in pre-Christian times, read almost like a science fiction story. At first the patriarch met two tall men - "such as I have never seen on earth," who told him that - "today thou shalt ascend with us into heaven (2,I). Realizing the serious character of this coming space voyage, Enoch summoned his family to say "farewell." "Hear me, my children, for I do not know whither I am going, or what awaits me." (2,II).

Then the two strange men took Enoch in a celestial chariot to a very high altitude. Flying above the clouds,Enoch's emotional reaction was quite natural: "And lo! the clouds moved. And again (going) higher I saw the air and (going still) higher I saw the ether, and they placed me in the first heaven." (2,III). The words "air," "ether" and "first heaven" may perhaps be translated as "atmosphere," "space" and "first planet." Then the next paragraph does make sense: "And they brought before my face the elders and the rulers of the stars."(2,IV). Evidently, these planetary leaders possessed great wisdom, as according to Enoch, "these orders arrange and study the revolutions of the stars...and they arrange teachings and instructions."(2,XIX).

The Indian Mahabharata contains verses so amazingly in accordance with modern astronomy that one wonders where the Brahmins obtained their knowledge:

"Infinite is space where the perfect ones and
gods dwell,
It is full of their delightful abodes without
number,
Above and below their course the sun and the
moon cannot be seen,
The resplendent gods, the fiery-coloured ones,
shine there like suns,
But even they fail to see the edge of the sky
so mightily spread.
So infinite, boundless and difficult to reach.
The resplendent, shiny ones conquer this space
further and further,
Though it is immeasurable even for the gods."

These lines from the epic of India show that galactic communities have been engaged in space travel since time immemorial. The same Sanskrit source also contains a description of an archaic airship: "A wondrous crystal chariot able to travel in the air, of the kind that the gods use in airy space." It is written that this aerial car was able to ascend to Naksatra Mandala (the stellar spaces).

Garuda, the man-bird of Vishnu, is alleged to have

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explored not only the moon but also the Pole Star. The memory of this space pioneer is kept alive in the Far East even today - Indonesia's national airline is named Garuda Airlines. One of the Vedic hymns, dedicated to Varuna, intimates that there had even existed some sort of galactic police in space:

"Whoever far beyond the sky should think his way to wing,
He could not there elude the grasp of Varuna, the king,
His agents descending from the skies glide all this world around,
Their thousand eyes all-scanning sweep to Earth's remotest bound."

Reading this verse,it would seem that the ancients were aware of the same sort of reconnaissance activities as those of today's controversial UFOs.

China used to be known as the Celestial Empire and no emperor could rule unless he received the Mandate of Heaven. In fact, all ancient dynasties reigned by the authority of Dieu et mon droit.Whether in China, Egypt or Peru, the formula was the same - first ruled the gods themselves, who were then followed by their offspring from mortal women in the so-called solar or celestial dynasties.

Much of African mythology mentions a god who lived on Earth helping man. According to these myths, the sky benefactor, angered by the evil ways of men, departs heavenward. The curious thing about these legends is their striking similarity to the myths of Re, Zeus and Quetzalcoatl.

As Dr. Raynor C. Johnson writes: "We may speculate whether the Divine Society has wholly evolved within our world-system, or whether, since we know there are world-systems older than ours, it may not have had from its earliest beginnings the guidance and direction of advanced beings from other systems."

It appears that the deeds of the stellar torchbearers of galactic culture are also described in some rare books of Asia. When L. Austine Waddell visited a monastery at Gyantse, Tibet, in 1903 he was shown a huge library of known Buddhist writings and also works unknown even to the monks. In 1966 I visited the Ghum Monastery near Darjeeling in the Himalayas. Its main attraction is a colossal Buddha whose forehead is encrusted with an enormous diamond the size of an egg. But more intriguing were the hundreds of scrolls and manuscripts of great antiquity, stored in pigeon-hole shelves. Of the history and contents of some of these Tibetan scrolls the lamas knew nothing. I also learned that certain valuable books had been removed during the early 1920s by the head lama of this monastery to an isolated retreat in Tibet "in order to preserve the gems of age-old wisdom." Following this personal experience I could accept Helena Blavatsky's discovery of the mysterious Book of Dzyan in south Tibet about 100 years ago.

Citations from this archaic manuscript which is written in Senzar or early Sanskrit, portray an expedition of cosmic civilizers to Earth:

"Said the Earth: Lord of the Shining Face, my house is empty, send thy sons to people this world.
"Man remained in empty senseless being.
"Dark grew the space between globes. Radiant the two worlds became.
"Finding the distance just, flashed like a sheet of intermittent flame. The Watchers began their task.
"The serpents who redescended, who taught and instructed.
"The fifth race was ruled over by the first divine kings."

These selections give a picture of the arrival of cosmic culture-bearers from another planet in order to accelerate the development of primitive man. The description of their flight in space when the two planets became luminous, is most convincing. The astronauts flew in a serpent-like vehicle at tremendous velocity. Upon landing on Earth they founded the first divine dynasties.

The plot follows the same general pattern characteristic of all ancient legends in that the evil ways of man discourage the gods to the abandonment of their mission. The Tongshaktchi Sangye Songa of Northern Buddhists records: "The kings of light departed in wrath. The sins of men have become so black that Earth quivers in her great agony."

The Brahmin writings of India allege that divine spacemen had performed biological experimentation with apes. Hanuman, the monkey god of the Ramayana, who is still revered in India, was conceived when Shiva approached Anjana,the ape, and gave her a sacred cake. Could this have been some sort of genetic pill? At any rate, some time later Hanuman was born, a strong and intelligent super-monkey. He was not the only guinea pig in this hominization program of the celestial beings as he was followed by other simian heroes - Sugriva, Brahaspati, Bali, Tara, Gandha, Madana, Nala, Mila and Sushena.

Neither should genetic tests with bears be overlooked as Vishnu's offspring was called Jambavan, the king of the bears. Hindus believe that Hanuman still lives in inaccessible mountain regions and, considering the strange resemblance of the yeti to a bear or to a giant ape, one wonders whether it is a surviving remnant of these breeding schemes of the cosmic civilizers.

A number of different genetic projects could have been initiated by the galactic astronauts and scientists. According to the myths of Indonesia, the Marqueses, Hawaii and Tahiti the first men on Earth were given birth to by a celestial couple. In the Caroline archipelago the natives insist that primordial man multiplied by budding as plants do. On Easter Island an old legend describes the first human being as coming out of an egg. This practice of eliminating sex in breeding by such children of Nature is difficult to understand.

Modern palaeontology draws its deductions on the appearance of man on the basis of unearthed bones and artifacts. This science was even more full of puzzles until the discovery of the Leakey skull. The prehistoric ancestors of man must have been extremely scarce as in only nine sites have human bones been located, covering a period from 2,500,000 to 300,000 years ago. But more and more skeletons and artifacts emerge from around 60,000 years ago. There seems to be considerable evidence that 40 centuries ago modern man appeared on the scene in a completely finished evolutionary form. Was some sort of hybridization carried out by visiting cosmic scientists around 50,000 years ago?

Hundreds of myths could be added to the mass of evidence illustrating a possible visitation to Earth by astronauts from an advanced stellar system on their mission of exploration and scientific aid. Admittedly, none of these legends constitute ultimate proof in themselves but, as has been noted by many scholars, it would seem peculiar that identical traditions should exist in lands separated by oceans or other vast distances without there being a grain of truth behind them.

Picture a spaceship taking off from a planet of a highly civilized galactic race to travel towards a yellow star surrounded by a number of planets, among which might be a possible garden of rational life. Entering that solar system, the commander of the spacecraft directed: "Destination - planet in third orbit from star. Object of mission - exploration and whatever scientific aid we can bring." If this is mere fiction, then all the scriptures, history and folklore which have been so painstakingly accumulated and handed down by so many peoples for so many thousands of years, fall by the wayside.

ZECHARIA SITCHIN's long-awaited third book in his series The Earth Chronicles will be available in May, 1985 as an original paperback from AVON BOOKS, New York. Entitled The Wars of Gods and Men, Book III casts a new light on mysteries such as the Biblical Flood, the Egyptian Pyramids, the massive ziggurats of Mesopotamia, the Exodus, the Trojan War, the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cataclysmic collapse of the ancient Sumerian civilization. The Earth Chronicles began with Book I: The 12th Planet and Book II: The Stairway to Heaven.

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I RECALL READING THAT THE pyramids constructed throughout the world were for the purpose of sheltering records of value at the time of the most recent axis change of the planet (which seems to have resulted in the various "deluge" myths common to so many cultures),and that such edifices as Stonehenge, which are astronomically aligned, were constructed for the purpose of re-defining this planet's position vis-a-vis the "heavenly bodies." This was particularly important in view of the fact that what was later termed "witchcraft" was then a worldwide "nature religion," and the various effects of stellar influences, seen and unseen, were known. Interestingly, I recently did some research into Celtic witchcraft and discovered that the initiation ritual was the same - exactly - as for Blackfeet Indian secret societies. The gigantic circles constructed of stone on the American prairies, which have baffled anthropologists for years, seem to me to be circles used for rituals identical to those used in the British Isles (see Janet & Colin Bord's book on this subject).

It completely baffles me how anyone can live on this planet and not raise questions about whence we came, whether ours is the only "civilization," etc. In particular I find it irritating that so many so-called scientists have closed minds regarding these matters. But then, the track records of "eminent scientists" when it comes to "new" ideas has always been disgraceful. The typical scientific mind is like a sausage: neatly tied shut at both ends.
Gloria Freeman, P.O.Box 653, Everett, WA 98206 USA.

## COMING EVENTS:

12th ANNIVERSARY WORLD CONFERENCE, Hotel Nova-Park, Zurich, Switzerland, September 20-21, 1985. Members outside the U.S. who wish to attend should write to ANCIENT ASTRONAUT SOCIETY, 4532 Feldbrunnen/SO, Baselstrasse 10, SWITZERLAND. Members in the U.S. may join the group departing Chicago on September 17 by writing to the Society headquarters for details.

MEMBER EXPEDITION TO TURKEY, GREECE MAINLAND AND GREEK ISLANDS, September 22 to October 11, 1985. Arrangements are now complete for the Society's Member Expedition to Turkey and Greece, beginning immediately following the 12th Anniversary World Conference in Zurich, Switzerland. The Expedition will depart Zurich on Sunday, September 22 for Istanbul, Turkey. After a day in Istanbul, the group will fly to Ankara, then on to visit the amazing site of Nemrud Dagh and the underground cities of Derinkuyu and Kaymakli in southeastern Turkey.The Expedition will arrive in Athens on September 30, and spend one week on the Mainland, including a four-day motor tour of the Peloponnese and Central Greece, visiting Corinth, Mycenae, Sparta, Olympia, Delphi and other fascinating places. The Expedition will end with an optional Mediterranean Cruise to explore Santorini, Mykonos, Crete, Rhodes and the ruins of Ephesus in Turkey. A detailed itinerary and prices are available upon request from the Society headquarters.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ERICH VON DANIKEN ON HIS 50th BIRTHDAY, APRIL 14, 1985.

## SOME SPECULATIONS BY GEORGE SASSOON AND RODNEY DALE*

It seems that life did not evolve steadily on this planet, but in a series of fits and starts. At certain times, often many millions of years apart,whole collections of new species suddenly appeared.Changes also occurred in between these occasions, but much more slowly. The same is to be seen in the evolution of our own species, Homo sapiens. Anthropologists and archaeologists simply cannot account for the sudden appearance of, for example, Cro-Magnon Man. Amid a population of brutish-looking Neanderthalers,there suddenly arose a new race of people similar to ourselves, from whom we are descended. Oddly, Cro-Magnon men had bigger brains than modern man; this and many other differences are discussed in great detail by Flindt and Binder in Mankind-Child of the Stars. How can we account for this strange fact, that from time to time the development of life on Earth receives a sudden boost?

We have concluded that Earth must have received a visit from space-beings some 3500 years ago,and that the purpose of this visit was the improvement of a certain section of the population-the Israelites. From the legends of other peoples, we may infer that it was not the first such visit - and we may speculate that it will not be the last. The simplest answer to this question of life's evolution, and the one which fits the facts best, is that Earth was seeded with life from elsewhere. Perhaps simple organic molecules did evolve spontaneously as the scientists suggest, but then space visitors (let us follow Flindt and Binder and call these visitors "starmen"), noting the slow development of life on Earth, released a selection of more advanced creatures to speed things up a bit. (We do not, of course, claim originality for this idea). From time to time, through prehistory, the starmen have returned, adding more species at each visit, and perhaps eliminating some too. We can compare them with gardeners, who go round their plots regularly, planting here, weeding and pruning there, eliminating pests and promoting a balanced growth with best use of the available soil area. However, these gardeners are different from their earthly counterparts, for they also take an interest in the cultural achievements of their charges.

One of the great puzzles of archaeology is the sudden emergence of new cultures.The earliest traces of human occupation in Egypt are of a stone-age culture, and yet suddenly, on the ruins of its abject hovels, there arise magnificent temples, built using techniques which are the envy of modern stonemasons. In his Arts and Crafts of Ancient Egypt, Flinders Petrie notes that the first-dynasty Egyptians could produce turned vases of black granite of a quality which later dynasties could not achieve.It is doubtful whether such vases could have been made without the use of a special lathe.

The history of Ancient Egyptian technology is one of a rapid rise from nothing, followed by a slow decline. All the evidence points to a sudden injection of knowledge from outside, which was gradually forgotten. The evidence suggests that something, or somebody, is occasionally visiting Earth, and taking a hand in her development - and we see no reason why this assistance should have ceased.

*This article is excerpted from the authors' book The Manna-Machine, published in 1978 by Sidgwick & Jackson,London. Sassoon and Dale, English engineers, also collaborated in writing The Kabbalah Decoded, published by Duckworth & Co., Ltd., London.

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